THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) As reported by the State Government, a total of 46 Peacocks have died in Murena district of Madhya Pradesh. According to the post-mortem report, the cause of death is stated to be internal hemorrhage due to consumption of bajra seeds treated with insecticides.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The State Government has reported that the peacocks were not poisoned deliberately and there is no evidence of illegal hunting. The peacocks died after consuming insecticide treated bajra seeds that were sown in the agricultural fields. Delay in monsoon prevented the germination of seeds and also the leaching of insecticides into the soil.

Smuggling of Ozone—eating gases

643. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item which appeared in the Times of India of 18th May, 2000 under. caption, "Smuggling of ozone—eating gases worries Government"; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether smuggling of ozone-eating gases from Nepal, Bangladesh, etc. has been detected; if so, the number of such cases noticed during the last three years and action taken against each; and

(c) what action has been taken to stop this sort of smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Three cases of smuggling of refrigerant gases from Nepal and Bangladesh have been detected by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and 3 cases detected in Patna Customs Commissionerate and 2 cases in Lucknow Customs

Commissionerate during the last 3 years. Details of these cases are as follows:

Description of goods	Quantity Estimated Market Value	Place of seizure	Action taken
Refrigerant gases in sealed cylinder	30 pcs. Rs. 1,20,000	Berhampore (near lndo- Bangladesh border).	Goods seized and two persons arrested.
Refrigerant gases in sealed cylinder	13. pes Rs. 52.000	Berhampore (new lndo-Bangladesh border)	Goods seized
Refrigerant gases *in* sealed cylinder	78 pcs. Rs. 20,92,000	Patna (goods were smuggled from the Indo-Nepal Border	Goods seized and two persons arrested,
Refrigerant gases in sealed cylinder	52 Cylinder Rs. 2.60,000	Patna	3 persons arrested prosecution launched
Refrigerant gases in sealed cylinder	131 Cylinder Rs. 6,55,000	Patna	Unclaimed
Refrigerant gases in sealed cylinder	3 Cylinder Rs. 15,000	Patna	Unclaimed
Refrigerant gases in sealed cylinder	2 Cylinder Rs. 10,000	Lucknow	Case booked
Refrigerant gases in seated cylinder	72 Cylinder Rs. 1,80,000	Lucknow	Case booked

In addition the following cases of import have been noticed at Mumbai Port which were adjudicated after imposing fines and penalties and re-export of the goods were allowed.

Name of the Importer	Goods	Redemption Fine	Personal Penality	Remark
M/s. Suny Ent., IS, PrithivirajGases Market New Delhi	Refrigeration	Rs. 70.000/-	Rs. 14,000/-	Re-export allowed
M/s. Seba International,Gases 51, Lajpat Nagar II, New Delhi.	Refrigeration	Rs. 1.00.000/-	Rs. 30,000/-	Re-export allowed

(c) AH the field fonnations under the Customs Department including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence are ever vigilant and alert to thwart any attempts of smuggling of ozone eating gas;

Pending hydro power proposals of Kerala

† 644. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that several schemes for hydro power projects of Kerala pertaining year 1970 and from 1984 to 1992 have been lying penGJiig with Central Government for approval,

(b) if so, the number there <»f and the number of such proposals fit for approval; and

(c) whether Central Government would make any such arrangements that the proposal fit for approval are cleared in a time span of one year in any circumstances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Environment and Forest clearances are statutory under the

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.